based small industry suffer heavily. It is feared that a new high breed variety of bree brought to India from abroad a few years back is the cause of this epidemic. So far, no effective measures have been taken to control and prevent this epidemic.

I request the Central Government to take immediate steps to help the bee keeping farmers in South India who are badly affected by this epidemic.

(ii) Need to replace manual telephone exchange by an electronic exchange in Rajampet, Andhra Pradesh

SHRI A. PRATHAP SAI (Rajampet): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards lack of telecommunication development in Rajampet, Andhra Pradesh. So far not even a single manual telephone exchange has been replaced by an Electronic Exchange in Rajampet, Andhra Pradesh which is one of the most backward areas of the country. Inspite of revolutionary developments in telecommunication people of this area are deprived of any such developments.

Hence, I request the Central Government to replace manual telephone exchange of an electronic telephone exchange in Rajampet, Andhra Pradesh.

(iii) Need to provide more railway facilities at Ganganagar Junction, Rajasthan

[*Translation*]

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Ganganagar is an important district of the country in regard to agriculture products and there is only one train 'Ganganagar Express' as the main means of transport between Ganganagar and Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan. This train takes 15 hours to cover the distance of 582 kilo metres. This train is always over-crowdec because there is no other means of transpor tation. Therefore, tourist buses have domi nated this route as a result of which there is loss of revenue and the passangers have tc pay more fare.

At present the population of Ganga nagar is more than 3 lakh and there are twc cantonment of Army in this district and an Ai Force Station at Suratgarh. This is an impor tant district of the State from the point of view of irrigation facilities. There is network o canals and there are five circles. As it is leading is agricultural products, there is lot o commercial and trade activities and many people visit that district. From the point o view of security, agriculture and business Ganganagar is not only an import city of the State but also of the country. There is facility of only one train service from district head quarter Ganganagar to the capital of the State, jaipur, therefore the passengers have to face a lot of inconvenience. Therefore, my submission is that a new train service should be introduced between Jaipur and Ganga nagar.

The time of journey should be reducec to 10 hours by replacing existing stema engine by diesel engine and stopages of ths train should also be reduced so that the journey may become more comfortable as well as take less time.

A passenger shuttle train should be introduced between Jaipur and Sikar so that daily commuters may get some relief.

(iv) Need to take over Krishna Mill at Beawar city in Ajmer district of Rajasthan by NTC

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, life of thousands of labourers has become difficult due to closure of Krishna Mill in Beawar city of Ajmer dis-

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

trict. Kith and Kin of thousands of these labourers are not getting full meal. The dues amounting to crores of rupees of provident fund and insurance deposits of the labourers have not been paid. Different Cloth Mill Labour Organisations and political parties have repeatedly requested the Government to re–start this mill.

Therefore, to give employment to the Jobless labourers, to save their Kith and Kin from starvation and to save machines worth crores of rupees, the Government of India should take–over Krishna Mill immediately and start it under NTC and same the production.

(v) Need for early construction of a lateral road in Sitamarhi district, Bihar

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Sitamarhi, a backward district of Bihar State is far away from the developmental activities. Sitamarhi is on the border of Nepal. For a long time the construction of a lateral road is being demanded here. The construction of a lateral road is essential from the security point of view, because no road of this district is in a condition to be used for righing defence supplies in case of need. 13th and 14th gates of Nepal open in this district. The construction work of highway in Nepal was done by the Government of India, which has its own importance. The roads of Saidpur, Pupari, Turkhand, Pahihar and Bela of this district are already in a bad condition, where no vehicle can be driven speedily.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to get a survey of this road conducted by the Border Road Organisation and construct this road immediately.

(vi) Need to provide STD facility at Jhargram Telephone Exchange in Midnapure district, West Bengal

[*English*]

SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU (Jhargram): Jhargram sub-divisional town of Midnapore district of West Bengal is an important place in many respects. It is an area which is principally dominated by the tribal people. In this age of electronic development, communication system in this area is very much back–dated. In view of the various recent development programmes undertaken by the Government of West Bengal, it is rightly felt that the communications system should be modernised with extension of this facility to remote villages of this area. Government of West Bengal has installed one of its offices of an important Department, the Jhargram Development Parishad with a Minister there. There is no STD facility in that area. It causes a great difficulty to maintain day–to–day communication due to lack of this modern facility.

I urge the Central Government to provide STD facility to Jhargram Telephone Exchange immediately.

13.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

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The Lok Sabha re–assembled after Lunch at eighteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]